

SUNBURY

AMERICAN.

H. B. MASSER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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A Family Newspaper—Devoted to Politics, Literature, Morality, Foreign and Domestic News, Science and the Arts, Agriculture, Markets, Amusements, &c.

SUNBURY, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA., SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 1853

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Business attended to in the Counties of Northumberland, Union, Lycoming and Columbia.

SELECT POETRY.

THE FLOWERS OF GOD.

Consider the lilies of the field.

The lilies of the field are blossoming,
In joyous troops revealed;
They lift their dewy buds and bells
In garden mead and field;
They look in every sunless path,
Where forest children tread;
They dot like stars the sweetest turf,
Which lies above the dead.

They sport with every playful wind
That stirs the blowing trees;
And laugh on every fragrant bush,
As if of nothing else;
From the green margin of lake and stream,
Fresh vale and mountain side,
The pure sweet flowers of God
The pure sweet flowers of God

They come with genial air and skies,
In summer's golden prime,
And to the stricken world give back
Lost Eden's blissful clime;
Outshining Solomon they come,
And go full soon away;
But yet, like him, they meekly breathe
True wisdom while they stay.

"I had," they whisper, "smiles on us
And buds in bloom and shine,
Does he not mark, O faithless man!
Each wish and want of mine?
Think, too what joys await in heaven
The best of human birth,
When rapture, such as ours there now,
Can teach the sad on earth!"

Redeemer of a fallen race!
Most merciful of kings!
Thy hallowed words have clothed with power
Those frail and beautiful things;
All thought by thee, they yearly speak
Their message of deep love,
Bidding us fix, for life and death,
Our hearts and hopes above

Biographical.

THE LAST OF THE ROMANS.

NATHANIEL MACON.

The National Intelligencer of July 19th, gives us a sketch from Col. Benton's new book of the great man whose name heads this article. That paper says Mr. Macon was a very remarkable man, and he was a type of the Republic of which he was a native. Scarcely ever did any of our earlier legislative statesmen exert so decided an influence in shaping the course of the Government in its foreign relations as he; and during the critical and important years preceding the war of 1812, and through all the trying agencies in which this country was placed by the wars of Europe, his opinions, ever frankly expressed, were always looked for in England with peculiar solicitude, as affording a reliable clue to the policy and intentions of Congress. Mr. Macon was a model republican, and his character is eminently valuable in a republican State, as an example for all who would serve their country honorably, and give dignity, purity, and perpetuity to our republican institutions. Colonel Benton has drawn this portrait admirably, for his heart was in it, and every reader will be struck with the simplicity, clearness, force and beauty of the delineation. We have read nothing for a long time with more pleasure or a deeper interest; and, as we know of hardly anything in American biography so worthy of the study of American youth, we could wish to see it inserted in every school book in the country.

COL. BENTON'S HISTORY.

Philosophic in his temperament and wise in his conduct, governed in all his actions by reason and judgment, and deeply imbued with British feelings, and patriotic man (whom Mr. Jefferson called "the last of the Romans") had long fixed the term of his political existence at the limit of many life: "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow, for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." He touched that age in 1828, and true to all his purposes, he was true to his resolve in this, and executed it with the quietude and indifference of an ordinary transaction. He was in the middle of a third Senatorial term, and in the full possession of all his faculties of mind and body; but his time for retirement had come—the time fixed by himself, but fixed upon conviction and for well considered reasons, and inexorable to him as if fixed by fate. To the friends who urged him to remain to the end of his term, and who insisted that his mind was as good as ever, he would answer that it was good enough yet to let him know that he ought to quit office before his mind quit him, and that he did not mean to risk the fate of the Arch-bishop of Grenada. He resigned his Senatorial honors, as he had worn them, meekly, unostentatiously, in a letter of thanks and gratitude to the General Assembly of his State, and gave to repose at home that interval of thought and quietude which every wise man would wish to place between the turmoil of life and the stillness of eternity. He had nine years of this tranquil enjoyment, and died without pain or suffering, June 29th, 1837, characteristic in death as in life. It was eight o'clock in the morning when he felt the supreme hour had come, and himself full-dressed, and with his usual neatness, walked in the room and lay upon the bed, by turns conversing kindly with those who were about him, and showing by his conduct that he was ready and waiting, but hurrying nothing. It was the death of Socrates, all but

the hemlock, and in that full faith of which the Grecian sage had only a glimmering. He directed his own grave on the point of a sterile ridge, (where nobody would wish to be buried) and covered a pile of rough stones (which nobody would wish to build with) deeming this strictness and usefulness of this rock the best security for that undisturbed repose of the bones which is still desirable to those who are indifferent to monuments.

In almost all strongly-marked characters there is usually some incident of sign in early life which shows that character and reveals to the close observer the type of the future man. So it was with Mr. Macon. His firmness, his patriotism, his self-denial, his devotion to duty, and disregard of office and emolument; his modesty, integrity, self-control, and subjection of conduct to the convictions of reason and the dictates of virtue, all so steadily exemplified in a long life, were all shown from the early age of eighteen, in the miniature representation of individual action, and only confirmed in the subsequent public exhibitions of a long, beautiful, and exalted career. He was of that age, and a student at Princeton College, at the time of the Declaration of American Independence. A small volunteer corps was then on the Delaware. He put his books, joined it, and served a term, returned to Princeton, and resumed his studies. In the year 1778 the Southern States had become a battle-field, big with their own fate, and possibly involving the issue of the war. British fleets and armies appeared there, strongly supported by the friends of the British cause; and the conquest of the South was fully counted upon. Help was needed in these States; and Mr. Macon, quitting college, returned to his native county in North Carolina, joined a militia company as a private, and marched to South Carolina, then the theatre of the enemy's operations. He had his share in all the hardships and disasters of that trying time; was at the fall of Fort Mifflin, surrender of Charleston, defeat at Camden, and in the rapid winter retreat across the upper part of North Carolina. He was in the camp on the left bank of the Yadkin when the brief interval between the crossing of the Americans and the coming up of the British, arrested the pursuit of Cornwallis, and enabled Greene to allow some rest to his wearied and exhausted men. In this camp, destitute of every thing, and with gloomy prospects ahead, a summons came to Mr. Macon from the Governor of North Carolina requiring him to attend a meeting of the General Assembly, of which he had been elected a member, without his knowledge, by the people of his county. He refused to go; and the incident being talked of through the camp came to the knowledge of the General. Greene was a man himself and able to know a man. He felt at once that if this report was true, this young soldier was no common character, and determined to verify the fact. He sent for the young man, inquired of him, heard the truth, and then asked for the reason of this unexpected conduct—this preference for a suffering camp over a comfortable seat in the General Assembly! Mr. Macon answered him, in his quiet and sententious way, that he had seen the faces of the British many times, but had never seen their backs, and meant to stay in the army till he did. Greene instantly saw the material the young man was made of, and the handle by which he was to be worked. That material was patriotism; that handle a sense of duty; and laying hold of this handle he quickly worked the young soldier into a different conclusion from the one that he had arrived at. He told him he could do more good as a member of the General Assembly than as a soldier; that in the army he would be one man, and in the General Assembly he might obtain many, with the supplies they needed, by showing the destitution and suffering which he had seen in the camp, and that it was his duty to go. This view of duty and usefulness was decisive. Mr. Macon obeyed the governor's summons, and by his representations contributed to obtain the supplies which enabled Greene to turn back and face Cornwallis, fight him, cripple him, drive him further back than he had advanced, (for Wilmington is south of Camden) and then to remain in the South (of which, up to the battle of Guilford, he believed himself to be master) and sending him to Yorktown, where he was captured, and the war ended.

THE NORMONS AND THE NEW REPUBLIC.

ST. CHARLES.

It has already been stated that the Normons have purchased Charles Island, one of the Galapagos group, with the object of removing thither and founding a new Republic. This is important if true. The Galapagos form a cluster of islands in the Pacific Ocean near the coast of Columbia. They lie under the equator, and the centre island is in longitude 85 deg. 30 min. W. They are uninhabited, but are frequently visited by the South Sea whale ships, for fresh water and provisions. The largest is sixty to seventy miles long, and fifty broad. In general, they are barren, but some of the highest have stunted brush-wood, and all are covered with the prickly pear tree, upon which a large species of land tortoise lives and thrives in a wonderful manner. According to Captain Delano, some of the largest of these animals weigh 300 or 400 pounds, but their common size is between 50 and 100 pounds. He has seen them with necks between two and three feet long. Their flesh is described as of delightful flavor, and their fat is much sweeter than hog's lard. Charles Island is one of the principal and most fertile of this group. The contemplated colony indicates sagacity on the part of the leaders. They must be convinced that with the approaching wave of civilization, they will be swept away, especially should they continue their infamous system of polygamy. Indeed, the recent manifestations of Brigham Young have produced any thing but a favorable impression, and we have heard surprise expressed in various quarters, at the appointment of such a man to such station. At our last dates from the city of the Salt Lake, great preparations were in progress for the erection of the new temple. We may infer, therefore, that the new colony is intended merely as a branch, or perhaps as a place of refuge in the hour of danger.

WHERE IS THE WEST?—On Friday last, at 4 P. M., Samuel Lawrence, Esq., was in Boston, having left LaSalle, Illinois, at 3 o'clock, Wednesday, P. M., proceeding to Cleveland, called at Buffalo, was sped over the plain by the "lightning express" train to Worcester Railroad to Boston! Once, and within the memory of the middle aged man of this day, Buffalo was considered "out west." Chicago, but yesterday, was a "far-off-land." Now, a merchant shakes hands and bids good-bye to his customers 180 miles west of that, and in two days and an hour and a half greets his friends in Boston! It is in fact only eleven hundred and fifty miles.—Boston Journal.

THE REPORTED ORINATION OF SILLIMAN

YERACITE.—On the trial of a person in Boston for violating the Liquor law, a witness, who was put upon the stand to impeach another, swore that "the character of the witness for the State might be good enough for common affairs, but on a fox hunt he was the all-furthest that he ever did see."

LAMARTINE'S MOTHER.

It is currently reported and believed to be quite authentic, that the mother of the celebrated French patriot, Lamartine, was a Massachusetts girl, named Waitstill Brigham. She married the father of the eminent statesman, Lamartine, when quite young, in Boston, and then went to France, where she remained during her life.

President to the day laborer—no other title being necessary to enter his house but that of an honest man; rich enough to bring up his family (two daughters) as accomplished ladies, and marry them to accomplished gentlemen—one to William Martin, Esq., the other to William Eaton, Esq., of Roanoke, my early school-fellow and friend for more than half a century; and, above all, he was rich enough to pay as he went, and never to owe a dollar to any man.

He was steadfast in his friendships, and would stake himself for a friend, but would violate no point of public duty to please or oblige him. Of this his relations with Mr. Randolph gave a signal instance. He drew a knife to defend him in the theatre at Philadelphia when menaced by some naval and military officers for words spoken in a debate, and deemed offensive to their professions; yet, when Speaker of the House of Representatives, he displeased Mr. Randolph from the head of the Committee of Ways and Means, because the chairman of that committee should be on terms of political friendship with the Administration, which Mr. Randolph had then ceased to be with Mr. Jefferson's. He was above Executive office, even the highest President could give; but not above the lowest people could give, taking that of justice of the peace in his country and refusing that of Postmaster-General at Washington. He was opposed to nepotism and all quatering of his connections on the Government; and in the course of his forty years' service, with the absolute friendship of many Administrations and the perfect respect of all, he never had office or contract for any of his blood. He refused to be a candidate for the Vice-Presidency, but took the place of elector on the Van Buren ticket in 1836. He was against paper money and the paper system, and was accustomed to present the strong argument against it in the simple phrase, that this was a hard-money Government, made by hard-money men, who had seen the evils of paper money, and meant to save their posterity from it. He was supposed to be security, and held that no man ought to be entangled in the affairs of another, and that the interested parties alone—those who expected to find their profit in the transaction—should bear the consequences, as well as enjoy the good ones, of their own dealings. He never called any one "friends" without being so; and never expressed faith in the honor and integrity of a man without acting up to the declaration when the occasion required it. Thus, in constituting his friend Weldon N. Edwards, Esq., his testamentary and sole executor, with large discretionary powers, he left all to his honor, and forbade him to account to any court or power for the manner in which he should execute that trust. This prohibition was so characteristic and so honorable to both parties, and has been so well justified by the event, that I give it in his own words, as copied from his will, to wit:

"I submit the following, in my own handwriting, as a codicil to my last will and testament, and direct that it be a part thereof—that is to say, having full faith in the honor and integrity of my executor above named, he shall not be held to account to any court or power whatever, for the discharge of the trust confided by me to him in and by the foregoing will."

And the event has proved that his judgment, as always, committed no mistake when it bestowed that confidence. He had his peculiarities—idiosyncrasies, if any one please—but they were born with him, suited to him, becoming in him, constituting a part of his character, and necessary to its completeness. He never subscribed to charities, but gave, and freely, according to his means—the left hand not knowing what the right hand did. He never subscribed for new books, giving as a reason to the soliciting agent that he had purchased his tobacco until it was inspected, and he could buy no book until he had examined it. He would not attend the Congress Presidential Caucus of 1824, although it was sure to nominate his own choice, (Mr. Crawford) and, when a reason was wanted, gave it in the brief answer that he attended one once and they cheated him, and he had said that he would never attend another. He always wore the same dress—that is to say, a suit of the same material, cut, and color, superfine navy blue—the whole suit from the same piece, and in the fashion of the time of the Revolution, and always replaced by a new one before it showed age. He was neat in his person, always wore fine linen, a fine cambie stock, a fine fur hat with a brim to it, fair top boots—the boot outside the pantalon, on the principle that leather was stronger than cloth. He would wear no man's honors, and when complimented on the report on the Panama mission, which, as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, he had presented to the Senate, he would answer, "Yes, it is a good report; Tanewell wrote it." Left to himself, he was ready to take the last place and the lowest seat anywhere; but in his Representative capacity he would suffer no derogation of a constitutional or of a popular right. Thus, when speaker of the House, and a place behind the President's Secretaries had been assigned him in some ceremony, he disregarded the programme, and, as the elect of the elect of all the people, took his place next after those whom the national vote had elected. And in 1803, on the question to change the form of voting for President and Vice President, and the vote wanting one of the constitutional number of two-thirds, he resisted the rule of the House which restricted the Speaker's vote to

a tie, or to a vote which would make a tie, claimed his constitutional right to vote as a member, obtained it, gave the vote, made the two-thirds, and carried the amendment. And, what may well be deemed idiosyncratic in these days, he was punctual in the performance of all his minor duties to the Senate, attending its sittings to the moment, attending all the committees to which he was appointed, attending all the funerals of the members and officers of the House, always in time at every place where duty required him, and refusing double mileage for one traveling, when elected from the House of Representatives to the Senate, or summoned to an extra session. He was an habitual reader and student of the Bible, a pious and religious man; and of the "Baptist persuasion," as he was accustomed to express it.

I have a pleasure in recalling the recollections of this wise, just, and good man, and in writing them down, not without profit, I hope to rising generations, and at least as extending the knowledge of the kind of men to whom we are indebted for our independence, and for the form of Government which they established for us. Mr. Macon was the real Cincinnati of America, the pride and ornament of his native State, my hereditary friend through four generations, my mentor in the first seven of my Senatorial and the last seven of his Senatorial life; and a feeling of gratitude and of filial affection mingle itself with this discharge of historical duty to his memory.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

Thirty years ago Russia was at war with Turkey. As that event may possibly again occur, it is interesting (says the N. Y. Tribune) to recur to the sentiments of two of the most eminent men that existed at that time, of the merits of the question, and of war in general. Jefferson, when he wrote this letter, was 82 years of age, and John Adams 90:

MONTICELLO, June 1, 1822.

To return to the news of the day; it seems that the Cannibals of Europe are going to eat another again. A war between Russia and Turkey is like the battle of the kite and snake;—whichever destroys the other, leaves a destroyer less for the world. This pugnacious humor of mankind seems to be the law of his nature; one of the obstacles to too great multiplication, provided in the mechanism of the Universe.—The cocks of the hen yard kill one another; bears, bulls, rams, do the same, and the horse in his wild state kills all the young males, until worn down with age and war, some vigorous youth kills him. I hope we shall prove how much happier for man the Quaker policy is, and that the life of the feeder is better than that of the fighter. And it is some consolation that the desolation by these maniacs of one part of the earth is the means of improving it in another part.—Let the war be our office; and let us milk the cow while the Russian holds her by the horns, and the Turk by the tail. God bless you, and give you health, strength, good spirits, and as much of life as you think worth having.

"THOMAS JEFFERSON."

MR. ADAMS'S REPLY.

Quincy, June 11, 1822.

"Dear Sir,—Hail on hour ago I received, and this moment have heard read, for the third or fourth time, the best letter that ever was written by an out-gunning, dated June 1. . . . This globe is a theatre of war; its inhabitants are all enemies. The little cells in vinegar, and the animalcules in pepper-water, I believe are quarrelsome. The bees are as warlike as the Romans, Russians, Britons, or Frenchmen. Ants, caterpillars, and cawkerworms are the only tribes among whom I have not seen battles; and Heaven itself, if we believe Hindoos, Jews, Christians and Mohammedans, has not always been at peace. We need not trouble ourselves about these things, nor let ourselves be troubled by evil doers; but safely trust the 'Ruler with his skies'."

"JOHN ADAMS."

"FANNY FERN SAYS:—If there was but one woman in the world, the men would have a terrible time! Fanny is right; but we would ask her what kind of a time the women would have if there was but one man in existence.—New York Musical World and Times.

What kind of a time would they have? Why, of course no grass would grow under their slippers! The "Wars of the Roses," the battles of Waterloo and Bonker Hill would be a farce to it. Black eyes would be the rage, and both caps and characters would be torn to tatters. Imagine it would not be much of a millennium either to the moving cause of the disturbance. He would be as crazy as a fly in a drum, or as dizzy as a bee in a ten acre field of honeysuckles, uncertain where to alight. He'd roll his bewildered eyes from one exquisite organization to another, and frantically and diplomatically exclaim with Macbeth—"How happy could I be with other, were 't other dear charmer away!"

"What kind of a time would the women have were there only one man in the world? Why, they'd resort to arms, of course! What kind of a time would they have? What is that to me? They might 'take their own time,' to every 'Miss Lucy' of 'em, for all I should care; and so might the man himself; for with me, the limited supply would not increase the value of the article.—Olive Branch. FANNY FERN.

MACKEREL.—The catch of mackerel at the Isles of Shoals this season, says the Boston Transcript, has been very large, being estimated by good judges on the Island as more than 2000 barrels, generally of good quality.

MR. HICKMAN, of Wincing, Va., has received authentic information from England, that he is one of two hundred heirs to an estate valued at \$3,000,000.

THE DANGER OF STOUT WOMEN.—A magistrate in Cincinnati fined a stout woman \$10 for a breach of the peace. She seized the magistrate immediately by the throat, and soundly boxed his ears, taking out a full ten dollars' worth.

THE GROSS RECEIPTS of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad for the first six months of 1852, were \$980,903; for the same period in 1853, \$1,459,137, showing the extraordinary increase of \$478,233. The increased expenditures during the same period was but \$24,452.

ELIJAH FREEMAN, who has figured as a fugitive slave, since a valuable horse from Mr. Brainerd, of St. Albans, Vt., 15th inst., and made off for the South, instead of pursuing his journey to Canada. He was caught and caged.

One half the army of the United States is employed upon the Mexican frontier.

The Crystal Palace Inauguration Banquet cost \$7,200.

THE DIRECTOR of the Bank of Northumberland, June 25, 1853.

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